Central Team visited the drought and flood affected areas of Karnataka from 16th to 18th March, 2000. Their report was examined/considered by the Inter-Ministerial Group (IMG). The report of the Central Team and recommendations of the IMG thereon were considered by the National Calamity Relief Committee (NCRC) in its meeting held on 27-3-2000 and it approved an assistance of Rs. 17.09 crore from NFCR. This amount was released to the State Government by the Ministry of Finance on 31-3-2000. This was in addition to the allocation of Rs. 48.39 crore to the State under Calamity Relief Fund for 1999-2000.

Establishment of Fisheries Training and Extension Centres

2940. SHRI KHAGEN DAS : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to sanction the project for establishing "Fisheries Training and Extension Centres" in three districts of Tripura and also project for establishment of inland fish and fish seed marketing network in Tripura;

(b) if so, by when it will be sanctioned; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV) : (a) to (c) The Government of India have sanctioned one Fish Farmers Training Centre for establishment in the district of Agartala in Tripura State during the year 1999-2000. Consideration of establishment of further centres will be subject to receipt of physical and financial progress report of the first training Centre. As the Central Sector Scheme on "Strengthening of Infrastructure for Inland Fish Marketing" has since been discontinued with effect from 1996-97, the Ministry of Agriculture have no proposal to sanction any project for establishment of Inland fish and fish seed marketing network for Tripura State.

Technology to Process Nuclear Waste

2941 SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that new technology has been developed to process the nuclear waste;

(b) whether the said process also helps in producing 25 to 30 times more power; and

(c) whether Government have any plan to make use of such process and if so, by when ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY (SHRIMATI VASUNDHRA RAJE) : (a) Yes, Sir, the Government is aware that a number of technologies have been and are being developed to process nuclear waste, both in India and abroad.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Chinese Claim over Sikkim

2942. SHRI DAWA LAMA : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Chinese Government is staking claims over Sikkim; and

(b) if so, the reactions of Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA) : (a) and (b) Chinese official maps continue to depict Sikkim as a separate territory outside India. The official website of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of China, launched on January 1,2000, refers to Sikkim as a separate territory and states that "the Chinese Government does not recognise India's illegal annexation of Sikkim".

We have taken up with the Chinese side the issue of their incorrect depiction of Sikkim. We have pointed out that their position on Sikkim, an issue related to India's sovereignty and territorial integrity, is not in conformity with their own stated objective of seeking goodwill and friendship with India. It is not in conformity with the principles of Panchsheel. It gives rise to misgivings in the minds of Indian people, Parliament and government and adversely affects the process of building trust and confidence. We have also conveyed to the Chinese side that we expect them to acknowledge the reality of Sikkim as an integral part of India. This would help promote development of friendly, co-operative, good-neighbourly and mutually beneficial relationship between the two sides.